

**CLAIMS**

I Claim:

1. A connection accepting system, comprising:

client terminals connected to a network; and

a first server for accepting connection requests from said client terminals through said network,

wherein said server includes a priority order setting unit which, upon receiving a first connection request from a first client terminal of said client terminals, sets a connection priority for said first client terminal and transmits data conveying said connection priority to said first client terminal; and a connection managing unit for allowing connection of said client terminals according to connection priority upon receiving a second connection request from a second client terminal of said client terminals after said first connection request; and

said first client terminal displays connection priority information, based on said data conveying said connection priority.

2. The connection accepting system according to Claim 1, further comprising a second server for executing a process according to requests from said client terminals,

wherein said first server accepts said first and second connection requests as connection requests for said second server and, when said connection managing unit allows connection of said first and second client terminals,

connects said first and second client terminals with said second server.

3. A server for accepting connection requests from client terminals through a network, comprising:

a connection-order setting unit which, upon receiving a first connection request from a first client terminal of said client terminals, sets an order of connection for said first client terminal; and

a connection managing unit for allowing connection of said client terminals according to said order of connection, upon receiving a second connection request from a second client terminal of said client terminals after said first connection request.

4. The accepting server according to Claim 3, wherein

data of said order of connection set by said connection-order setting unit is transmitted to said first client terminal; and

said first client terminal is caused to display connection-order information, based on said data.

5. The accepting server according to Claim 3, further comprising a connection-number monitoring unit for monitoring a number of connectable client terminals,

wherein said connection managing unit allows connection of one of said client terminals which is highest in said order

of connection, after acceptance of connection of a new client terminal has become possible, based on a number of connectable client terminals obtained by said connection-number monitoring unit.

6. The accepting server according to Claim 3, wherein a program for automatically executing said second connection request again is transmitted to said client terminal to which said order of connection has been set.
7. A server for accepting requests of connection from client terminals through a network, comprising:
  - a deciding unit for deciding whether a connection request from a client terminal is refused; and
  - a program transmitting unit which, when the connection request of the client terminal is refused, transmits a program to said client terminal for automatically executing a connection request to said accepting server again.
8. The accepting server according to Claim 7, further comprising:
  - a connection-order setting unit which, when the connection request is refused sets a connection order of said client terminal; and
  - a connection managing unit for allowing connection of said client terminal according to said connection order upon receiving a second connection request executed by said program.

9. The accepting server according to Claim 8, wherein a time interval for causing said client terminal to again execute a connection request according to said program, is set to a stage based on the connection order set to said client terminals.
10. The accepting server according to Claim 9, wherein said program that is transmitted by said program transmitting unit contains data of said time interval and data for specifying a target connection server.
11. A server for accepting requests of connection from client terminals, comprising:
- a connectable-number detecting unit for detecting a number of connectable client terminals;
  - a detecting unit for allowing connection of a client terminal when said number of connectable client terminals is at least a reference value, and refusing connection of said client terminal when said number of connectable client terminals is less than said reference value;
  - a priority-order setting unit for setting a connection priority for said client terminal when connection of said client terminal is refused by said detecting unit;
  - a connection-right granting unit for granting a right of connection to a client terminal whose connection priority is highest, when said number of connectable client terminals is increased from less than said reference value to more than said reference value; and

a connection allowing unit for allowing connection of the client terminal granted the right of connection at the time of receiving a connection request from said client terminal.

12. The accepting server according to Claim 11, further comprising

a connection queue data holding unit for holding data of a connection queue that is generated based on the connection priority set by said priority-order setting unit; and

a connection-right data holding unit for holding data for identifying said client terminal granted a right of connection by said connection-right granting unit;

wherein said connection allowing unit makes reference to said data held in said connection-right data holding unit upon receiving a connection request from said client terminal, and allows connection of said client terminal if the right of connection has been granted to said client terminal.

13. The accepting server according to Claim 11, wherein information on the connection priority set to said client terminal by said priority-order setting unit is contained in Cookie data and transmitted to said client terminal.

14. The accepting server according to Claim 11, wherein a program for automatically executing a connection request again is transmitted to said client terminal to which said connection priority has been set by said priority-order

setting unit.

15. A client terminal connectable with a server through a network, said client terminal comprising:

a unit for receiving data concerning a connection priority relative to said server, transmitted from said server when a connection request is sent to said server;

a unit for displaying information on the connection priority, based on said data; and

a unit for executing a connection request to said server after reception of said data, and executing connection when a right of connection is obtained from said server that allows connection according to said connection priority.

16. The client terminal according to Claim 15, wherein, when a connection request is sent to said server, a program for causing said terminal to repeat the connection request after a predetermined time period is received from said server and based on said program, a connection request is automatically sent to said server again after the predetermined time period.

17. A connection-acceptance managing method comprising the steps of:

receiving a connection request to a server from a client terminal;

deciding, in response to said connection request, whether connection to said server is refused;

setting a connection priority for said client terminal when connection is refused;

granting a right of connection to said client terminal according to the connection priority when connection to said server becomes possible; and

determining whether the right of connection has been granted to said client terminal, when a connection request is made by said client terminal to which the connection priority has been set, and allowing connection of said client terminal to said server when the right of connection has been granted.

18. The connection acceptance managing method according to Claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

generating a connection queue, based on the connection priority, and holding data of said generated connection queue; and

holding data for identifying said client terminal granted the right of connection,

wherein, when a connection request is received from said client terminal, reference is made to said data for identifying said client terminal and allowing connection of said client terminal when the right of connection has been granted to said client terminal.

19. The connection acceptance managing method according to Claim 17, further comprising a step of containing information on the connection priority set to said client terminal in

"Cookie" data, and transmitting said information to said client terminal.

20. The connection-acceptance managing method according to Claim 17, further comprising a step of transmitting to said client terminal a program for automatically executing a connection request again.

21. A storage medium in which a program to be executed by a computer which accepts requests for connection from client terminals is stored so that said program is readable by said computer, said program comprising:

a decision process for deciding, in response to a connection request, whether connection is refused;

a priority order set process for setting a connection priority to said client terminal when connection is refused;

a connection-right granting process for granting a right of connection to a client terminal having highest connection priority;

a connection-right confirmation process for confirming whether the right of connection has been granted to said client terminal, and

a connection allowance process for allowing connection of said client terminal when said connection-right confirmation process confirms that the right of connection has been granted.

22. The storage medium according to Claim 21, wherein said program further comprises a transmission process for transmitting to said client terminal data of the connection priority and a program for causing said client terminal to automatically execute a connection request again after a predetermined time period.

23. A storage medium in which a program to be executed by a computer which accepts requests for connection from a client terminal is stored so that said program is readable by said computer, said program comprising:

a decision process for deciding, in response to a connection request, whether connection is refused; and

a transmission process for transmitting a connection-request execution program for causing said client terminal to automatically execute a connection request again, to said client terminal when connection is refused.

24. The storage medium according to Claim 23, wherein said connection-request execution program sets a time interval to a plurality of stages for causing said client terminal to again execute a connection request according to said connection-request execution program.

25. A computer program which is executed by a computer which accepts requests for connection from a client terminal, comprising:

a process for setting a connection priority to said client

terminal when a connection request from said client terminal is accepted;

a process for granting a right of connection to said client terminal according to the connection priority; and

a process for confirming whether a right of connection has been granted to said client terminal when a connection request is made by said client terminal and allowing connection of said client terminal when grant of the right of connection is confirmed.

26. A computer program which is executed by a computer which accepts requests for connection from a client terminal, comprising:

a decision process for deciding, in response to a connection request, whether connection is refused; and

a transmission process for transmitting a connection-request execution program for causing said client terminal to automatically execute a connection request again, to said client terminal when connection is refused.